GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:616
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
CARRYING OF ARMS IN PLANES
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently arms were found in the luggage of many passengers travelling by various planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SANHA STARRED QUESTION NO.616 FOR 17.05.2007 REGARDING `CARRYING OF ARMS IN PLANES`.

(a)(b): Yes, Sir. Recently on four occasions arms were found in the luggage of passengers, the details of which are as under:-

1. On 13.01.2007, Customs Authority of Dubai detected and confiscated a Pistol and 30 rounds from the Registered Baggage of a passenger named Mr. Nusli Wadia,travelling from Mumbai to Dubai on Air India flight No AI-717.

2. On 22.03.2007, a.32 Revolver was recovered from the hand baggage of Mr. S.M. Ashraf travelling in Varanasi bound Spicejet flight No.SG-603.

3. On 3.5.2007, one .32 revolver make-II loaded with 06 rounds was found in the hand baggage of Shri Anil Parmmar travelling in Jet Airways flight No.9W-728 from Patna to Delhi.

4. On 3.5.2007, a 0.22 bore rifle was detected by Spicejet security staff while screening the courier bags of POBC Courier at Hyderabad airport.

Details of the action taken case-wise are as under:-

1. Air India conducted an enquiry. It was found that Mr. D.K. Balle, Security Agent of Air India had failed to detect the weapon during x-ray screening. The services of Mr. D.K. Balle have since been terminated.

2. Mr. S.M. Ashraf, was handed over to the Police Station, Palam Airport and a case was registered under the Arms Act.

3. The case was handed over to Airport Police Station, Patna for taking legal action under the Arms Act. Bihar Police is seized of the matter.

4. The courier representative was handed over to Begumpet Police Station by Spicejet Airline. Investigation by Hyderabad Police is going on.

(c): A series of dummy checks are conducted by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security(BCAS) officers to ensure proficiency levels of Airlines screeners. Security arrangements are being monitored regularly. BCAS periodically carries out aviation security oversight audit, inspections, security surveys and tests as also random inspections to ensure security in aviation operations.